App. No. 09/912,615
Amendment Dated: June 25, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 25, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-54 (canceled)

Claim 55 (new):   A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions, comprising:

initiating a backup operation;

causing a writer associated with an application, the application being associated with a plurality of components, each component describing one or more files, to create and make available a metadata file identifying which of the plurality of components are selected for inclusion in the backup operation;

reading the metadata file to identify the selected components;

performing the backup operation on the identified components;

prior to performing the backup operation, creating a backup components file describing a set of components that are intended to be backed up during the backup operation;

making the backup components file available to the writer for modification to include instructions related to the backup of the selected components; and

wherein performing the backup operation further comprises performing the backup operation on the identified components in accordance with any instructions provided by the writer in the modifications to the backup components file.

Claim 56 (new):   The computer-readable medium of claim 55, wherein the metadata file further comprises an identification of a file associated with the application and selected for exclusion from the backup operation.

Claim 57 (new):   The computer-readable medium of claim 57, wherein performing the backup operation includes excluding from the backup operation the file selected for exclusion.

App. No. 09/912,615
Amendment Dated: June 25, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 25, 2004

Claim 58 (new):   The computer-readable medium of claim 55, wherein the metadata file further comprises instructions related to a restore technique to be applied to one or more of the identified components during a restore operation.

Claim 59 (new):   The computer-readable medium of claim 58, further comprising performing a restore operation of the identified components in accordance with the restore technique identified in the metadata file.

Claim 60 (new):   The computer-readable medium of claim 55, wherein performing the backup operation comprises causing an image of the selected components to be taken, the image reflected a quiescent state of the selected components at an instant in time.

Claim 61 (new):   The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the image comprises a snapshot of a volume on which is stored the selected components.

Claim 62 (new):   A computer-implemented method for backing up data stored on a computer-readable medium, the method comprising:

initiating a backup operation;

causing a writer associated with an application, the application being associated with a plurality of components, each component describing one or more files, to create and make available a metadata file identifying which of the plurality of components are selected for inclusion in the backup operation;

reading the metadata file to identify the selected components;

performing the backup operation on the identified components;

prior to performing the backup operation, creating a backup components file describing a set of components that are intended to be backed up during the backup operation;

making the backup components file available to the writer for modification to include instructions related to the backup of the selected components; and

App. No. 09/912,615
Amendment Dated: June 25, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 25, 2004

wherein performing the backup operation further comprises performing the backup operation on the identified components in accordance with any instructions provided by the writer in the modifications to the backup components file.

Claim 63 (new):   The computer-implemented method of claim 62, wherein the metadata file further comprises an identification of a file associated with the application and selected for exclusion from the backup operation.

Claim 64 (new):   The computer-implemented method of claim 63, wherein performing the backup operation includes excluding from the backup operation the file selected for exclusion.

Claim 65 (new):   The computer-implemented method of claim 62, wherein the metadata file further comprises instructions related to a restore technique to be applied to one or more of the identified components during a restore operation.

Claim 66 (new):   The computer-implemented method of claim 65, further comprising performing a restore operation of the identified components in accordance with the restore technique identified in the metadata file.

Claim 67 (new):   The computer-implemented method of claim 62, wherein performing the backup operation comprises causing an image of the selected components to be taken, the image reflected a quiescent state of the selected components at an instant in time.

Claim 68 (new):   The computer-implemented method of claim 67, wherein the image comprises a snapshot of a volume on which is stored the selected components.